

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01939 092057Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 HEW-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /074 W

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R 092030Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9949

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, ELAP, BL

SUBJ: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHER PAY RAISE

REF: LA PAZ 1444

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOB AND NATIONAL COORDINATORS OF THE RURAL AND URBAN SCHOOL TEACHERS ENDED MARCH 5 WITH PAY RAISE OF 33 PERCENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY WORKLOAD OF THE TEACHERS. MONTHLY SALARIES WILL INCREASE BY ABOUT SIXTEEN TO THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS PER MONTH (DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S CATEGORY). MONTHLY SALARIES PREVIOUSLY RANGED FROM AROUND EIGHTY TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS PER MONTH, CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN MOST WHITE COLLAR WORKERS AND THE BETTER PAID INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS FOR THE URBAN TEACHERS UNION, THE LAST TEACHER'S RAISE WAS IN 1973WHEN WAGES WERE INCREASED BY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT. HOWEVER, THE TEACHERS UNIONS

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01939 092057Z

HAD CALCULATED THAT THE COST OF LIVING INCREASES

BEFORE THIS CHANGE ALREADY HAD REACHED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PERCENT. TEACHERS DID NOT RECEIVE WAGE INCREASES IN 1974 WHEN MANY SECTORS OF ORGANIZED LABOR GAINED 15 TO 20 PERCENT INCREASES. THE SAME SOURCE DID NOT NOW ANTICIPATE A NATIONAL STRIKE ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS IN SOME AREAS SUCH AS COCHABAMBA.

3. COMMENT: THE GOB DECISION AVERTED WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NATIONAL STRIKE BY OVER 57,000 TEACHERS. DESPITE THE GOB EMPHASIS THAT EHRE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO RAISE BUT RATHER AN AGREEMENT FOR MORE PAY FOR MORE WORK, NEVERTHELESS THIS WILL INCREASE THE PRESSURES FROM OTHERLABOR SECTORS FOR UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS IN WAGES OR BENEFITS. THE WAGE INCREASE IS GREATER THAN THE 21 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S BUDGET IN 1976, 95 PERCENT OF WHICH IS FOR SALARIES. IF THE GOB IS FORCED TO GRANT WAGE INCREASES TO OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES, IT MAY HAVE BOUGHT LABOR PEACE AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO MAINTAIN A WAGE FREEZE THROUGHOUT 1976 AND TO HOLD INFLATION FOR THE YEAR TO 12 PERCENT. END COMMENT.

STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, LABOR DISPUTES, TEACHERS, COST OF LIVING WAGE ADJUSTMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAPAZ01939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-1009
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760381/aaaactcj.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LA PAZ 1444
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by ellisob>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHER PAY RAISE
TAGS: PORS, ELAB, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006